

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Huntsville, Alabama

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

June 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **Huntsville, Alabama**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population (2000 Census): 158,216
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 63.4% white; 30.0% black/African American; 0.5% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2.2% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% other race; 1.7% two or more races; 2.0% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)
- Huntsville is located in Madison County.

### **Politics**

- Mayor: Loretta Spencer<sup>2</sup>
- City Council (Districts 1-5, respectively): Richard Showers, Sr.; Mark Russell; Sandra Moon; Bill Kling, Jr.; Glenn Watson<sup>3</sup>
- Police Chief: Compton Owens<sup>4</sup>
- Madison County Sheriff: Blake Dorning<sup>5</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)  
Designated in 1996, the Gulf Coast HIDTA is responsible for counties in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, including Madison.
- Partnership for a Drug-Free Community, Inc.<sup>6</sup>  
Organized in 1988, the Partnership for a Drug-Free Community is a private, non-profit organization that serves as the coordinating agency for drug and alcohol prevention programs in Madison County. Trained volunteers teach programs designed to raise awareness about the harms of drugs and alcohol and educate youth on how to refuse alcohol, drugs and tobacco.
- Parents Education Network (PEN) Show<sup>7</sup>  
The Partnership for a Drug-Free Community has developed the PEN Show to air once a week (Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.) on a local cable channel (Channel 3) for the purpose of providing parents with advice and information on issues such as youth substance abuse.
- All Stars<sup>8</sup>  
The goal of the All Stars program is to delay the onset of alcohol, tobacco and drug use. The Department of Education has named all Stars a Best Practice Program.

### **Federal Funding**

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Huntsville:<sup>9</sup>
  - FY 1998, FY 2000, FY 2001, and FY 2002: no grantees
  - FY 1999:
    - \$99,933 to Partnership for a Drug-Free Community, Inc.

- Executive Office for Weed and Seed<sup>10</sup>  
The Terry Heights area of Huntsville has been officially recognized as a Weed and Seed site.
- There were no Huntsville recipients of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds distributed in FY 2001.<sup>11</sup>
- There were no Huntsville recipients of the FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant.<sup>12</sup>
- There were no Huntsville recipients of the FY 2002 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant.<sup>13</sup>
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant amounts received in Huntsville:<sup>14</sup>
  - \$125,000 to Valley Gardens II
  - \$125,000 to Valley Garden Apartments
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services grants received in Huntsville:<sup>15</sup>
  - Discretionary - \$2,200,757
  - Formula - \$351,221

### **Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- Preliminary data indicate that there were 5 murders known to police in Huntsville during full year 2002.<sup>16</sup>

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Huntsville, 2001-2002

<b>Offense</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>
Murder	15	5
Forcible rape	109	82
Robbery	345	315
Aggravated assault	570	559
Burglary	1,802	1,714
Larceny-theft	7,802	6,718
Motor vehicle theft	770	774
Arson	41	45

- In 2000, there were 430 adult drug-related arrests in Madison County.<sup>17</sup>

Number of Adult Alcohol and Drug-Related Arrests, Madison County, 1996-2000

<b>Type of Arrest</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
Alcohol-related	768	972	926	467	573
Drug-related	468	508	617	418	430
Drunk driving	429	598	497	249	412

### **Juveniles**

- There were 299 juvenile drug-related arrests in Madison County during 2000.<sup>18</sup>

Number of Juvenile Alcohol and Drug-Related Arrests, Madison County, 1996-2000

Type of Arrest	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Alcohol-related	339	531	509	394	315
Drug-related	500	505	598	569	299

- A 2002 survey of Madison County students found that 14% of 8th graders reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes.<sup>19</sup>

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Substance Use, Madison County, 2002

Drug Type	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Cigarettes	15%	25%	32%
Alcohol	24	33	48
Marijuana	4	8	14
Inhalants	12	14	14
Hallucinogens	1	1	3
Cocaine	1	2	1
Other drugs	4	7	9

- Forty percent of Madison County seniors reported lifetime marijuana use.<sup>20</sup>

Percent of Students Reporting Lifetime Substance Use, Madison County, 2002

Drug Type	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Cigarettes	48%	51%	56%	54%
Alcohol	58	72	70	74
Marijuana	34	36	39	40
Inhalants	10	11	9	9
Hallucinogens	5	7	8	8
Cocaine	4	5	7	4
Other drugs	14	20	18	11

**Enforcement**

- The Huntsville Police Department K-9 Unit employs seven dual-purpose patrol/narcotic teams and one single-purpose bomb team.<sup>21</sup>
- As of October 31, 2001, there were 524 full-time law enforcement employees in Huntsville (360 officers and 164 civilians).<sup>22</sup>

**Courts**

- Drug Courts<sup>23</sup>  
As of May 2003, there was one drug court that was recently implemented and one drug court being planned in Huntsville.

**Treatment**

- There are two treatment programs in Huntsville funded by the Substance Abuse Services Division of the Alabama Department of Mental Health-Mental Retardation: Huntsville/Madison Mental Health (MH) Center and The Pathfinder, Inc.<sup>24</sup>

- In FY 2001-2002, there were 762 clients in the Huntsville/Madison MH Center and 60 clients in The Pathfinder, Inc.<sup>25</sup>
- More than 27% of those being treated at the Huntsville/Madison MH Center had marijuana as their primary drug of abuse.<sup>26</sup>

Number of Clients, by Primary Drug of Abuse, Huntsville Facilities, FY 2001-02

Drug Type	Huntsville/Madison	
	MH Center	The Pathfinder, Inc.
Alcohol	360	21
Crack	104	14
Other cocaine	31	0
Marijuana/hashish	209	4
Heroin/morphine	4	0
Methadone	3	0
Codeine	1	0
Oxycodone	5	5
Hydromorphone	4	0
Other narcotic analgesic	16	0
PCP/PCP combination	1	0
Methamphetamine	6	13
Amphetamine	4	0
Alprazolam	3	0
Chlordiazepox	0	1
Diazepam	3	0
Other benzodiazepines	3	0
Other non-barbiturate sedative	1	0
GHB/GBL	2	1
Clonazepam	1	0
Other	1	0
Total	762	60

- Approximately 63% of those being treated at The Pathfinder, Inc. reported daily use of their primary drug of abuse.<sup>27</sup>

Frequency of Use of Primary Drug, Huntsville Treatment Facilities, FY 2001-2002

Frequency of Use	Huntsville/Madison	
	MH Center	The Pathfinder, Inc.
Daily	28.61%	63.33%
1-2 times per week	13.78	11.67
1-3 times in past month	12.60	0
3-6 times per week	12.86	13.33
No past month use	31.89	11.67
Other	0.26	0

- Nearly half (358) of those being treated at the Huntsville/Madison MH Center in FY 2001-2002 had used drugs for more than 15 years before being treated.<sup>28</sup>

Number of Clients by Years of Use Before Admission, Huntsville Facilities, FY 2001-02

Years of Use Before Treatment	Huntsville/Madison	
	MH Center	The Pathfinder, Inc.
<1 year	3	0
1 year	25	2
2 years	34	4
3 years	22	3
4 years	30	4
5 years	30	5
6-9 years	126	9
10-15 years	132	10
>15 years	358	23

- More than half of those being treated at the Huntsville/Madison MH Center were referred to treatment through probation/parole.<sup>29</sup>

Treatment Referral Source, Huntsville Treatment Facilities, FY 2001-2002

Referral Source	Huntsville/Madison	
	MH Center	The Pathfinder, Inc.
Self	229	0
Physician	2	0
Dept. of Human Resources	72	0
Employer/EAP	3	0
Court/correctional agency	4	0
Formal adjudication	2	0
Probation/parole	441	0
Recognized legal entity	1	0
Other criminal justice	2	0
Hospital	1	0
Alcohol treatment	0	21
Drug treatment	0	39
Partial day organization	1	0
Homeless shelter	2	0
Other	2	0

- Approximately 75% of the Huntsville/Madison MH Center clients had never received prior treatment.<sup>30</sup>

Prior Treatment Status, Huntsville Treatment Facilities, FY 2001-2002

Number of Prior Treatment Visits	Huntsville/Madison MH Center	The Pathfinder, Inc.
0 prior visits	74.67%	3.33%
1 visits	21.78	26.67
2 visits	3.15	30.0
3 visits	0.13	20.0
4 prior visits	0.26	6.67
5 or more prior visits	--	13.33

**Sources**

- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>
- <sup>2</sup> Huntsville Mayor Web site: <http://www.ci.huntsville.al.us/Administration/Mayor/index.html>
- <sup>3</sup> Huntsville City County Web site: <http://www.ci.huntsville.al.us/CityCouncil/index.html>
- <sup>4</sup> Huntsville Police Department Web site: <http://www.ci.huntsville.al.us/police/index.html>
- <sup>5</sup> Madison County Sheriff's Office Web site: <http://www.co.madison.al.us/services/sheriff/>
- <sup>6</sup> Partnership for a Drug-Free Community, Inc. Web site: <http://www.partnershipfordrug-freecommunity.org/index.html>
- <sup>7</sup> Partnership for a Drug-Free Community, Inc. Web site, Parents Education Network Show section: <http://www.partnershipfordrug-freecommunity.org/penshow.html>
- <sup>8</sup> Partnership for a Drug-Free Community, Inc. Web site, All Stars section: <http://www.partnershipfordrug-freecommunity.org/allstars.html>
- <sup>9</sup> Drug-Free Communities Support Program Web site, Alabama section: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/al.html>
- <sup>10</sup> Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center Web site, Alabama section: <http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/map.aspx?state=AL>
- <sup>11</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration, FY 2001 Discretionary Funding, Alabama: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/content/states01/al.htm>
- <sup>12</sup> Bureau of Justice Assistance Web site, FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grants: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/DrugCourts/02DCgrants.htm>
- <sup>13</sup> Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, FY 2002 Methamphetamine Grant Announcement, November 14, 2002: [http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth\\_grantees.pdf](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth_grantees.pdf)
- <sup>14</sup> U.S. Housing and Urban Development, *Federally Assisted Low-Income Housing Drug Elimination Grants: Detailed Congressional Report*, FY 2001: <http://www.hud.gov/content/releases/drugelimination.pdf>
- <sup>15</sup> FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Grants, Alabama: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fy2002grants/map/al.htm>
- <sup>16</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Preliminary Uniform Crime Report, 2002*, June 2003: [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius\\_02/02prelimannual.pdf](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_02/02prelimannual.pdf)
- <sup>17</sup> Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, *Alabama Indicators of Prevention Needs: State and County Profiles*, February 2003: [http://www.mh.state.al.us/admin/downloads/SubstanceAbuse/SA\\_3210\\_AlabamaIndicatorsOfPreventionNeed.pdf](http://www.mh.state.al.us/admin/downloads/SubstanceAbuse/SA_3210_AlabamaIndicatorsOfPreventionNeed.pdf)
- <sup>18</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>19</sup> Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, *Alabama Student Survey of Risk and Protective Factors: County Profiles*, September 2002: <http://www.mh.state.al.us/admin/downloads/SubstanceAbuse/2002StatewideStudentSurveyofRiskandProtectiveFactors.pdf>
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid.

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- <sup>21</sup> Huntsville Police Department K-9 Unit Web site: <http://www.geocities.com/hpdk9unit/index.html>
- <sup>22</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2001*, October 2002:  
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/01cius.htm>
- <sup>23</sup> Office of Justice Programs Drug Courts Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, May 22, 2003:  
<http://www.american.edu/spa/justice/publications/drgchart2k.pdf>
- <sup>24</sup> Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, *Client Admission Profile of the Alabama Department of MH-MR Substance Abuse Services Division, FY 2001-2002*:  
<http://www.mh.state.al.us/admin/downloads/SubstanceAbuse/FY0102%20Client%20Admission%20Profile.PDF>
- <sup>25</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>26</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>28</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>29</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>30</sup> Ibid.

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues contact:

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